

Drill Bits

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FY 13, 6th Edition

Safety and Occupational Health

Office:

CPT Lori Starr, OHO 737-6613
lori.starr@us.army.mil

CPT Kathy Hill, OHN 737-6657
kathy.hill@us.army.mil

CW4 Lonny Hofer, SSO 737-6703
lonny.hofer@us.army.mil

SFC Bruce Kraemer, OHT/IHT
737-6620
bruce.r.kraemer@us.army.mil

SFC Brian Gessner, State Safety
NCO
brian.gessner@us.army.mil

SPC Don Gibbs, Safety Tech
737-6501
don.gibbs@us.army.mil

Motorcycle training still available

The South Dakota Safety Council has started posting dates for the motorcycle safety classes available for the spring and summer of 2013.

The courses offered are the Basic Rider and Experienced Rider classes. The website is located at

<http://southdakotasafetycouncil.org/motorcycle/index.cfm>

Courses listed on the calendar are not all inclusive. Some areas of the state have not yet announced their schedules, and some areas will have additional classes offered as the

spring progresses.

Meanwhile, you as a Soldier rider have the responsibility to yourself, your family and friends to make sure you are the safest rider you can be. One method is taking either the basic rider course or attending the experienced rider course.

While the basic rider course will take the novice/beginner from crawl to walk to trot on a MSF (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) bike, in a controlled environment, the ERC (Experienced rider course) is designed to sharpen the skills you have and need on your bike.

The ERC Student is typically a graduate of the BRC for a year, has their own bike and has at least 1000 miles of riding experience.

Either class (or both) is not only a good idea, but a requirement for riding on a DOD facility.

The skills learned will go a long way to keeping you safe and alive on two wheels.

Also, just one more piece of encouragement: The SDARNG Safety Office will pay for your course fee upon completion. You must be a Soldier in the SDARNG, must have completed the course and submit a DTS Local Voucher with a copy of the completion card in the Substantiating Documents. Route the DTS Voucher to the Safety Office. If you have any questions, contact your readiness personnel or this office.

Leaders, it is your duty to watch out for all Soldiers so ensure everyone, especially M-Day personnel know about this.

Sign up early or watch for schedule changes for your area.

Soldier Rider dressed for success (survival).

DOT Helmet, gloves, over the ankle footwear, long sleeves and pants, reflective vest and proper eye pro.

Are you ready to ride?



Inside Story Headline

South Dakota probably has more motorcycle owners per capita than all other states. If not, it just seems that way. And while the number of accidents involving motorcycles appears to be on the decline, the number and severity of injuries is much greater when compared to automobile occupants involved in crashes.

While many accidents involving motorcycles are not the riders fault, there is a large number where the accident is preventable or injuries minimized by actions of the rider.

WEAR your PPE: Helmet, gloves, boots, long sleeves, jeans and glasses. Protect your body.

Obey traffic laws, laws of physics and common sense: speed limits are not a "guideline", don't speed or drive faster than the conditions allow. Your bike may have the ability to stop on a dime, in optimal circumstances. A panic stop is not the optimal circumstances. Take your time.

Drive to arrive. Plan out your trip, leave with enough time to adjust for delays. Never take short cuts or cut through traffic.

Legally you are entitled to the use of the whole lane, but be ready to reciprocate and respect the area around automobiles. Give them their space.

Never linger in big trucks blind spots. If the truck is passing you, give it room and provide yourself a buffer zone. If you are passing, be sure you can see the driver in the mirrors first, flash the high beam once, and move on. And don't waste time doing it. Once you are around it, with plenty of room (if possible give 5-10 car lengths) signal, return to the original lane and resume normal operations.

If you are a new rider, team up with some veterans. Most soldiers who ride, and have ridden for several

years will be glad to offer advice, help with skills and encourage you to practice often. Use those years of experience to keep yourself safe.

If you are a veteran rider, share those skills, offer tips and encourage young riders to join with you on recreational rides to give them the example of how to survive on the road. Don't wait for a new rider to come to you. If you know a Soldier is new to the motorcycle experience, reach out to them and encourage them to ride with others who will help to keep them safe.

When riding in a group, be sure to ride in a staggered formation. That allows each bike the whole lane to react to something out of the ordinary. Remember that all traffic laws still apply to the individual rider. You must stop at all stop signs, traffic lights or other traffic control devices. If you are in a group passing a slower vehicle, pass individually for greater visibility and ability to see other traffic.

Show off's or trick riding are for shows and special events. There is absolutely no place on the public roads for wheelies, cookies, drag races, hot dogging, or performing other stunts that endanger not only

yourself but others on or near the road. Join a circus for that.

Riding America is one of the most fun experiences one can have. It is a true adventure and the joy is only increased by sharing it with family and friends. But returning home safely from the adventure should be your first goal and highest priority.

Always focus on the road: conditions, traffic and surroundings change rapidly so better be ready. On long rides, take lots of breaks.

Finally, attend a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course. For Soldiers, the costs are reimbursed to you, so all you have to do is participate.

Reference: "SDARNG FY13 Motorcycle Safety Training" located on the [ngsdintranet](#) @ AGO/SOHO/SOHO Documents/SOHO Training/MC Training—FY13 Guidance.



This is NOT how to do it. Ride to survive: stay alert, stay alive